

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing pages include the following:

Replacement Sheets

Annotated Marked-up Drawings.

Remarks:

Applicant has carefully studied the non-final Examiner's Action mailed 02/16/2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire 05/16/2006, and all references cited therein. The amendment appearing above and these explanatory remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Action. Accordingly, this important patent application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant responds to the outstanding Action by centered headings and numbered paragraphs that correspond to the centered headings and paragraph numbering employed by the Office, to ensure full response on the merits to each finding of the Office.

Drawings

1. The drawings stand objected to because reference numeral "46" in Fig. 3 should be --48--. Applicant files herewith corrected drawings in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(d). Rather than change "46" to --48--, thereby duplicating the "48" already present in said Fig. 3, the drawing is corrected by deleting reference numeral "46" and its lead line.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

2. Applicant acknowledges the quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.
3. Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because the limitation "the periphery of said bottom wall" in claim 1, lines 11-12 lacks antecedent basis. Moreover, claim 1 recites "a bailer having a check valve, and claims 2 and 3 recite the same limitation. This ground of rejection is met by changing "the periphery of said bottom wall" to --a periphery of said bottom wall-- in claim 1 and by changing "a bailer having a check valve" in claims 2 and 3 to --said bailer having a check valve--.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

4. Applicant acknowledges the quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).
5. Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hunkin et al. (hereinafter "Hunkin"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested for the reasons that follow. Hunkin lacks annular bead 46 at the leading end of the tapered sidewalls of the valve housing of the bailer, and further lacks annular groove 48 formed in the interior sidewalls of the bottom-emptying device. Accordingly, the valve housing and bottom-emptying device of Hunkin cannot interlock with one another and a user of the Hunkin

device must hold the bottom-emptying device in close proximity to the valve housing while waiting for the bailer to drain. Applicant's structure, recited with particularity in claim 1, currently amended, is not anticipated or suggested by the Hunkin structure.

Conclusion

6. Applicant agrees that the art made of record and not relied upon is not more pertinent to the claimed invention than the art cited.

A Notice of Allowance is solicited. If the Office is not fully persuaded as to the merits of Applicant's position, or if an Examiner's Amendment would place the pending claims in condition for allowance, a telephone call to the undersigned at (813) 925-8505 is requested. Applicant thanks the Office for its careful examination of this important patent application.

Very respectfully,

SMITH & HOPEN

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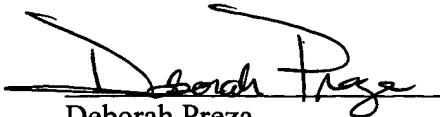
Dated: April 21, 2006

pc: Mr. David W. Pratt

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
(37 C.F.R. 1.8)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Amendment A, including Introductory Comments, Amendments to the Claims, Amendments to the Drawings and Remarks, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 21, 2006.

Dated: April 21, 2006


Deborah Preza